



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Conservation Commission Minutes 10/21/2010

Arlington Conservation Commission  
 Minutes  
 October 21, 2010

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, David White, Ellen Reed, Curt Connors and Catherine Garnett of the Commission. Member Ezra Benjamin has resigned. Karen Grossman, Adelaide Grady, Tim Williams, Mike Rademacher, Teresa Hodge, Doris Birnnegher, and Bob Mirak were also attending.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

8pm Notice of Intent – 30-50 Mill St apartment building

This hearing was continued from 9/16.

Mr. Williams updated the Commission on revisions to the apartment building design from the Redevelopment Board (ARB) proceedings. These changes will result in the need to file revised plans with the Conservation Commission. He will not submit those revised plans until the permitting process is complete with the ARB and all changes can be incorporated in to a final submission.

The revisions include a lower roof line (flat; one less story) and a longer water quality swale that will continue around alongside the bikepath and an extension to the building to the West over where an outside parking lot was placed previously.

Mr. Williams said the developer is willing to remove the pavement (~2,000 – 3,000 sq. ft.) that has spilled over onto the adjacent School Committee property and then loam and seed; Mr. Stevens said the School Committee is aware of this and likely will provide written permission for this work; an approval permit, if issued, could include such a condition allowing the work. The developer is still in discussions with other Town boards and officials about a design to renovate and enhance the pocket park; such work will require a separate filing.

White/Reed motioned to continue the hearing to 11/4 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm Notice of Intent – Mill Brook at Ryder St, repair of concrete channel

Mr. Rademacher presented plans and a description of a large hole in the channel conveying Mill Brook just downstream of Ryder St. Most of the adjacent property is owned by Bob Mirak but the Town has an an easement over adjacent land to repair the brook which is a town water body.

The hole will be filled with a combination of flowable fill and granite blocks (recycled curb pieces). The work will take about a week. The dewatering plan was detailed on the plan. A vac truck will be used to remove the muddy water from the hole to allow the work to take place; any clean water can be pumped.

The board directed Ms. Beckwith to issue an emergency certification for this work due to the significant undermining of an adjacent large wall. Mr. Mirak spoke to the immediate need to repair this area. The DPW could begin this work in as soon as two weeks.

The DPW next week will send out abutter notifications for another hearing on 11/4 as abutters were not notified, though the legal ad appeared in the newspaper..

Reed/Tirone motioned to continue this hearing to 11/4 at 8:30pm in order to review any outstanding concerns of abutters; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm Executive Session – session was not conducted, this item is continued to 11/4 at 7:45pm

8:45pm Notice of Intent – Linwood St end, Spy Pond Park, path reconstruction

Ms. Hodge presented the proposal to replace the existing path material with Stalock, a new product by the same manufacturer of the existing stonedust material. There is significant erosion of the existing material in this location.

The project construction should only take two days at most. MSDS sheets on the composite product were included in the permit application, but there is no disclosure on the exact contents of the path materials. This project is a very small area and will provide a test case of this material.

Tirone/White motioned to issue the permit with the following conditions: 1) install a siltsack in the stormdrain at the end of Linwood St, 2) replace all haybales with strawbales, or use mulch-filled filter socks as erosion controls, 3) sweep up all materials from the staging and work areas at the end of the project; motion passed with Ms. Reed voting against the motion, all other members approved the motion.

9pm Amendments to Bylaw Regulations

The Commission continued this item to 11/4 at 8:45pm.

Commission Business (cont.)

Reed/White motioned to approve the 10/7 and 10/7 Executive Session minutes as edited; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens updated the Commission on the Thompson School renovation project. He attended a recent meeting of the Thompson School Building Committee. One option under consideration would require a unanimous vote of the Commission since it involves building a new school building on existing parkland (Article 97 land). The Commission asked Mr. Stevens to get guidance from Town Counsel on its role and what standards to apply if it had to vote on this option; no vote would be required before the upcoming Special Town Meeting in November. Mr. Stevens said the Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, Leslie Meyer, had suggested a joint meeting to learn more about this proposal.

Mr. Stevens solicited help to substitute for him in coordination of the Conservation Restriction that will be granted to the Commission (and MassAudubon) on Elizabeth Island once it is acquired by the Arlington Land Trust. The Conservation Commission had previously voted to use \$22,000 of its Land Acquisition Fund for this. Ms. Beckwith and Mr. White were willing to work on this project with both the Arlington Land Trust and MassAudubon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator